Crystal Spider

Kit contains:

- Pipe cleaners
- Stick
- String
- 6 Tablespoons Borax Powder
- 2 Googly eyes

You will need: a pencil, a bowl, a small pot of water, a mixing spoon, and ADULT SUPERVISION.

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INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1. Make your spider. Take the longest pipe cleaner and twist a circle for the head. Wrap the rest of it around a pencil to form a spiral body. Twist the smaller pipe cleaners to the body to form 4 sets of legs.

Step 2. Tie one end of the string to your spider and the other to the stick. Suspend over a bowl. Spider should NOT touch the bowl.

Step 3. Boil 2 cups of water in a pot. Stir in the Borax powder and boil until dissolved and clear.

Step 4. Pour the hot Borax solution into the bowl, completely covering the spider. Crystals will form in 3 to 4 hours.

Step 5. Remove spider from bowl, cut off string, and let dry. Stick on the googly eyes.

THE CHEMISTRY!

Chemists are constantly creating reactions in compounds to try to change their makeup. One of these is the formation for crystals from a solution, called recrystallization. This is where a saturated solution cools to form crystals from a mixture.

In the case of Borax, the compound is dissolved in hot water. As with most minerals and solids, Borax becomes less soluble the lower the temperature of the water. Therefore, when the mixture with Borax and water is cooled, the water holds less of the Borax and it falls out of the solution. This causes crystals to form at the bottom of the solution and makes your beautiful creations!

(Source: 20muleteamlaundry.com)